IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

FUNAMIZU et al

Serial No.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is invited to the attached documents identified and discussed in the specification of this application together with a completed Form PTO-1449.

Also attached are copies of the three documents cited in the International Search Report (PTO-1449 submitted February 17, 2000) as receipt of copies of these references is not acknowledged in the PCT Group's communication of May 3, 2000.

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement

shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

Respectfully submitted,

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